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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/02002

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C01G31/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C01G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 02 04353 A (ROHRMANN BODO RUDIGER ;DORMEHL ANDRIES GERARDUS (ZA); HIGHVELD STE) 17 January 2002 (2002-01-17) the whole document	1-6
A	US 5 368 762 A (MAGOME KO ET AL) 29 November 1994 (1994-11-29) column 5, line 41 example 1	1-6

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☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *O* document: referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 August 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/09/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5318 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax. 31 651 epo.nl
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Rhodes, K

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			WO 0204353 A2	17-01-2002
			ZA 200105584 A	22-05-2002
US 5368762	A	29-11-1994	JP 5290871 A	05-11-1993
			AU 641873 B1	30-09-1993
			DE 69305905 D1	19-12-1996
			DE 69305905 T2	10-04-1997
			EP 0566019 A1	20-10-1993